

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Of those claims, claims 11, 12, and 17-19 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b).

In this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 have been amended and claim 6 has been cancelled. Care has been exercised not to introduce new matter. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to delete an isothermal transformation process and to include the limitations recited in claim 6. Claim 7 has also been amended to be dependent on independent claim 1.

Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 13-16 are now active in this application, of which claim 1 is independent.

Rejoinder

Upon the allowance of claim 1, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder and allowance of claims 11, 12, and 17-19 directed to the withdrawn species.

Claim Rejection– 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 09-296214 (“JP’214”). Applicants submit that the JP’214 does not identically disclose a manufacturing method of a thin component including all the limitations recited in independent claim 1, which reads:

1. A manufacturing method of a thin component, including the steps of

heating a thin component, and thereafter, while sizing with molds and using said molds as cooling media of said thin component, performing a quenching process on said thin component, wherein

after said thin component is quenched, said thin component is tempered using said molds as temperature controlling media.

According to the claimed manufacturing method, the thin component can be quenched and tempered using the molds as temperature controlling media. The term “quenching” means heating steel to an austenitic structure, and then rapidly cooling it in any of various types of cooling media, in order to generate a martensitic structure.¹ Further, the term “tempering” refers to an operation of heating the martensitic structure generated by quenching of steel to a temperature equal to or lower than A₁ point, and cooling the same.²

The JP ‘214 relates to a method of heating a material to be treated to the austenite region (not lower than A₃ point), then rapidly cooling the material to be treated while holding the material between forming heat treatment dies set at temperature T₁ lower than desired austempering temperature T₂, and subsequently holding the forming heat treatment dies at austempering temperature T₂ to allow bainitic transformation to occur (see Fig. 1 and paragraph [0013]).

Here, temperature T₁ of the forming heat treatment dies in rapid cooling in the JP ‘214 is a temperature higher than martensitic transformation point M_s, and hence this rapid cooling does not cause martensitic transformation. Therefore, the rapid cooling described in the JP ‘214 is not the quenching process, and the heating for holding the forming heat treatment dies at the austempering temperature T₂ after the above-described rapid cooling does not correspond to the tempering process.

Fig. 6 of the JP ‘214 (see, also, paragraphs [0053]-[0059]) shows apparatus 6 that has bainitizing portion 601 and martensitzing portion 602. In apparatus 6, martensitzing portion

¹ See *Illustrated Dictionary of Engineering Terms for Metals*, 543 (Institute for Materials Research, The Nikkan Kogyo Shinbun 1993), a copy of the relevant portion and the English language translation thereof are attached as Exhibit A.

² *Id.* at 544. See Exhibit A.

602 that requires tempering is provided with cooling pipe 64 for allowing cooling water to pass therethrough, and is not provided with a heating portion such as a heater for heating martensitizing portion 602. Therefore, with this apparatus, it is not possible to heat martensitizing portion 602 after a quenching process and perform a tempering process. If a heater at bainitizing portion 601 were used to perform heating, a bainitic structure would be affected adversely.

As described above, it is not possible to perform the tempering process after the quenching process in apparatus 6 shown in Fig. 6 of the JP '214. To perform tempering, it is necessary to use other dies or a furnace.

Based on the foregoing, the JP'214 does not identically disclose a manufacturing method of a thin component including all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Dependent claims 2-8 and 10 are also patentably distinguishable over the JP'214 at least because these claim include all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of the claims and favorable consideration thereof.

Claim Rejection– 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 9 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the JP'214 in view of Grell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,682,227, hereinafter “Grell”).

Claims 9 and 13-16 depend on independent claim 1. Applicants thus incorporate herein the arguments made in response to the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation evidenced by the JP'214. The Examiner's additional comments and secondary reference to Grell do not cure the deficiencies of the JP'214. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of the claims and favorable consideration thereof.

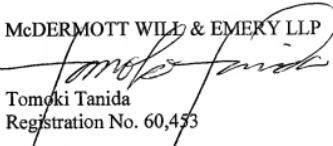
Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Exhibit A

Partial English Translation of
"Illustrated Dictionary of Engineering Terms for Metals"

Edited by Institute for Materials Research

THE NIKKAN KOGYO SHINBUN, LTD.

(pp. 543)

淬火・ quenching: An operation of heating steel to an austenitic structure, and then rapidly cooling the same in various types of cooling media is referred to as quenching. An object of the quenching is to inhibit ferritic, pearlitic, and bainitic transformations and generate a martensitic structure. Therefore, a cooling rate depending on hardenability and dimension of steel is adopted, so that various types of cooling media are used in quenching, and various types of operations are used to prevent quenching transformation and cracking.

(pp. 544)

焼入れ・tempering: An operation of heating the martensitic structure generated by quenching of steel to a temperature equal to or lower than A_1 point, and cooling the same is referred to as tempering. This corresponds to a heat treatment with which carbide and others are precipitated from the martensitic structure having carbon and others solid-solved therein in a supersaturated manner, so as to allow the martensitic structure to be a more stable structure and recover toughness. Although this treatment is referred to as an aging treatment in other metals, an aging treatment of a martensite of steel is commonly referred to as tempering.

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モン—モン

モン *Monoclinic* 面心立方の構造で割れらる鋼ニッケルマット ($\text{Ni} + \text{Cu} = 80\%$, $\text{Si} = 15\%$, $\text{Fe}(\text{Cr}) = 5\%$) からニッケルを得るために、 1400°C K. R. L. Mond らによって開発された方法である。還元: 鹽酸鉄にニッケル(II)を溶かす。水素ガス ($\text{H}_2 + \text{CO}$) で還元してスパンジ状のニッケルとし、さらに CO ガスと作用させて揮発性のニッケルカーボニル ($\text{Ni}(\text{CO})_4$) の気体とし、 473 K 程度で加熱した珪藻土のうえで分解して、純度 99.9% 程度のニッケルを得る。

ヤギ—ヤキ

543

ヤ—ヤ

插入法 *insertion* 鋼をベースメタルに埋めこむ技術。鋼を被覆中に他の元素を挿入する方法。その過程、クラウト、ペーパー、ペーパークランプ等を用いてハーフクラウド組織を生むことをやめる。そのため、鋼の插入部や接合部には冷延成形が適用されるので、伝導熱は接合部の冷却が悪いから、また挿入部变形や剥離を防止するため各種の方法が用いられる。

插入熱 *quench aging* 高温から急冷して過渡的過飽和をつくり、室温あるいはそれより少し高い温度で保持したときに生ずる時熱現象。あるいはその操作を行う。冷却速度(%)

純入法 *hardfacing* 別のクラウドサイト組織の形成により、被覆部を形成する。被覆部の表面は同一鋼の表面よりも約 2 倍の強度をもつていて、硬度も絶対硬さにおいては、通常被覆部はてつもクラウドサイト組織が生じることである。そのため、被覆部の小角による被覆部の硬化が現れる。すなわち質量変化が小さく、また被覆部の変形や剥離を防ぐ。

純入熱 *hardfacing curve* 被覆部の挿入熱を算定するための一級導入試験(ジーニー試験)において、温度 20 mm 及び 100 mm の距離を…端から始めし、その平均端から平均距離に亘る被覆部の伸び率を示す曲線をいう。

純入熱指数 *multiplying factor* 被覆部挿入量に対する合金属量の影響の大きさを示す値であり、合金属量によって正確比較して得られる。挿入熱指数を用いて、合金属量と被覆部の伸び率を算出することができる。

すなわち、その伸び率を算出するための被覆部の伸び率によって決定され、合金属量の挿入熱量を乗じることによって得られる。

純入熱曲線 *hardfacing parameter* 被覆部の挿入熱(%)と当該挿入(%)の関係。 $P = T$ (T :被覆部(%)、 P :挿入(%))で表され、この場合の P を最ももじべつマークという。C は則確によって表なり、実質で求められる。因に鋼で開して T や P が変化しても C の値が変わらなければ挿入熱を算出される。

純入式形 *quenching furnace* 挿入熱による急速加热によって生じる形状または形状の傾きである。これは熱ひずみ、変形ひずみ、実質時間のずれによるひずみのひずみが重複して熱帶を也じて挿入熱に対して大き影響を及ぼす形では作用せずあり、その結果には極力一定に分布する操作が必要である。

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